

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. claim 1 is further amended from the amendment dated as below:

A substrate holding structure comprising:

a support column including a main body having an outer diameter, d, a top end portion with a flanged part, and an outer curvilinear transition part from the support column to the flanged part,

a substrate holding table joined to the flanged part at an annular joint surface between the table and the flanged part; and

a heating mechanism in the substrate holding table;

the substrate holding table having a lower surface with an annular U-shaped groove extending along an outer circumferential surface of the flanged part, an inner circumferential surface of the U-shaped groove being connected to the outer circumferential surface of the flanged part to form a continuous smooth outermost surface surrounding the joint surface; and

the lower surface of the substrate holding table having a second annular groove opposing the flanged part, whereby the flanged part is joined to the lower surface of the substrate holding table to provide the annular joint surface at only an outermost annular area of an upper surface of the flanged part, the second groove extending radially outwardly from a projection of outer diameter, d, through the flanged part, to the annular joint surface, whereby the second groove

forms a space that separates a substantial portion of the upper surface of the flanged part from the substrate holding table.

Claims 10 and 11 are cancelled.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael A. Makuch on 6/29/2009.

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 13 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram N. Kackar whose telephone number is 571 272 1436. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 A.M to 5:P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on 571 272 1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ram N Kackar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792

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